

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BAHR (Sponsor), JONES (89), KOENIG,  
CURTMAN AND SOMMER (Co-sponsors).

4244L.011

2       **WHEREAS**, high student performance and closing the achievement gap is  
3 fundamentally linked to an overall reform of our public education system through a strong  
4 system of accountability and transparency built on state standards; and

5       **WHEREAS**, the responsibility for the education of each child of this nation primarily  
6 lies with parents, supported by locally elected school boards and state governments; and

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8       **WHEREAS**, in 2009 and 2010, Missouri was offered a chance to compete for education  
9 funding through the "Race to the Top" program created the United States Department of  
10 Education (DOE); and

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12       **WHEREAS**, the only way to achieve a score in the competition sufficient to qualify for  
13 funding was to agree to "participation in a consortium of States that...[i]s working toward jointly  
14 developing and adopting a common set of K-12 standards..."; and

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16       **WHEREAS**, the only such "common set of K-12 standards" existent at that time, or  
17 since, is known as the Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSI) and was developed without a  
18 grant of authority from any state; and

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20       **WHEREAS**, given that the first official public draft of these standards was released in  
21 March 2010, to meet the DOE requirement, Missouri had only two months to evaluate the CCSI  
22 standards and agree to adopt them; and

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24       **WHEREAS**, local education officials, school leaders, teachers, and parents were not  
25 included in the discussion, evaluation, and preparation of the CCSI standards that would affect  
26 students in this state; and

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28       **WHEREAS**, no empirical evidence indicates that centralized education standards result  
29 in higher student achievement; and

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31       **WHEREAS**, adoption of the CCSI standards would force several states to lower the rigor  
32 and quality of their standards; and

33       **WHEREAS**, the National Assessment of Educational Progress national test already  
34 exists and allows comparisons of academic achievement to be made across the states, without  
35 the necessity of imposing national standards, curricula, or assessments; and

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37       **WHEREAS**, imposing a set of national standards is likely to lead to the imposition of  
38 a national curriculum and national assessment upon the various states in violation of the  
39 Elementary Secondary Education Act; and

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41       **WHEREAS**, claims from the Common Core Initiative that the CCSI standards will not  
42 dictate what teachers teach in the classroom are refuted by language in the standards as written;  
43 and

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45       **WHEREAS**, common standards will lessen the ability for local stakeholders to innovate  
46 and continue to make improvements over time; and

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48       **WHEREAS**, when no less than 22 states face budget shortfalls and Race to the Top  
49 funding for states is limited, \$350 million for consortia to develop new assessments aligned with  
50 the CCSI standards will not cover the entire cost of overhauling state accountability systems,  
51 which includes implementation of standards and testing and associated professional development  
52 and curriculum restructuring; and

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54       **WHEREAS**, special interest groups can manipulate the vulnerability of the centralized  
55 decision making that governs common standards and lower the standards' rigor and quality over  
56 time to suit their priorities:

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58       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
59 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
60 concurring therein, hereby reject any policies and procedures that would be incumbent on  
61 Missouri based on the Common Core Standards Initiative; and

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63       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
64 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the  
65 United States Department of Education, each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation,  
66 and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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